

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1911

Introduced by Honorable Representatives

ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT (Bayan Muna);
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MORETA ALEGRE, WIDOW OF POLITICAL PRISONER JESUS ALEGRE, ON JUST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS OF DETENTION

WHEREAS, Jesus Alegre, 75 years old, was a farmer from Barangay Tabao in Sagay, Negros Occidental who was arrested on April 14, 2005 for murder charges. He was arrested along with his wife Moreta and his son Selman;

WHEREAS, Jesus, Moreta and Selman were wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced with reclusion perpetua in 2005 over the death of a bodyguard of a local landlord, who consequently claimed the land which they tilled;

WHEREAS, the landlord previously attempted to get a title for 15 hectares of land, which included the portion that the Alegres occupy, to be able to lease it to a Japanese who was interested to turn it into a resort;

WHEREAS, the Alegre family filed a protest with the Bureau of Lands, causing the non-issuance of the title to the landlord;

WHEREAS, hired goons had been harassing and attacking the Alegres, leading to the death of one of the couple's son, Romeo, in 1994;

WHEREAS, Rogelio Tipon, one of the hired goons harassing the Alegres, was killed in a firefight with unidentified gunmen. The killing of Tipon was ascribed to the Alegres who were charged with murder;

WHEREAS, the Alegre couple spent four years at the Sagay prison in Negros Occidental before getting transferred to Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, Jesus and Selman were sent to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, while Moreta was sent to the Correction Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City ;

WHEREAS, Jesus died on June 13, 2021, after months of increased weakness and disorientation;

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2021, Moreta was reunited with his husband Jesus and son Selman but on the former's funeral rites in Manila after sixteen long years of forced separation while in detention;

WHEREAS, Jesus, along with his wife Moreta, was included in the list of elderly prisoners to be considered for executive clemency which human rights group Karapatan submitted to the Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, Moreta, who is now 74 years old, has been languishing in jail for sixteen years now and is highly vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 in jails;

WHEREAS, Moreta must be allowed to grieve her husband's death outside her cell, and must be allowed to spend the rest of her life outside of the country's prisons;

WHEREAS, Moreta has suffered too many injustices arising from a wrongful conviction for a crime she and her family did not commit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives adopt this resolution strongly urging President Rodrigo R. Duterte to immediately release female political prisoner Moreta Alegre, widow of political prisoner Jesus Alegre, on humanitarian considerations.

Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


FERDINAND R. GAITE
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